



FLOOD WISE

PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1927

WINTER 2025–2026

DO YOU LIVE IN A FLOOD PLAIN? YES



You are receiving this newsletter because you live in the American River Flood Control District (ARFCD) service area. That means your home is in a flood plain—low-lying land near rivers, creeks, or

coordinate with city, county, and state partners so flood protections perform when they're needed most.

Living in a flood plain means staying prepared. Understanding how water moves through your

"Sacramento's waterways bring beauty and green spaces, but they can rise quickly in major storms."

streams that can temporarily fill with water during and after heavy rain. Sacramento's waterways bring beauty and green spaces, but they can rise quickly in major storms.

More than 40 miles of levees, channels, and flood control structures protect your neighborhood, and ARFCD crews work year-round to inspect, repair, and maintain this system. They clear debris, manage vegetation, and

neighborhood helps you protect your home, plan safe evacuation routes, and respond quickly if flooding occurs. Simple steps—like checking your flood zone, preparing an emergency "Go Bag," and staying informed—can make a big difference.

Flood safety is a shared effort. Awareness, preparation, and partnership between ARFCD and residents can help keep the community safe, even during the heaviest storms. ⬅

YOUR TRUSTEES WORK FOR YOU

ARFCD is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees, who oversee operations and set policies that guide flood protection. Trustees manage levee maintenance, flood infrastructure, and emergency preparedness. See where your home falls on the map: arfdc.org/service-area-map

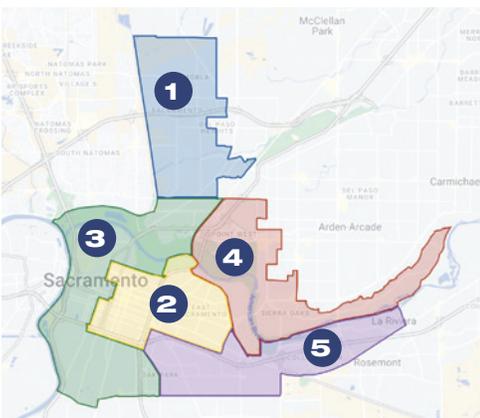
You and your neighbors vote for trustees during the November General Elections in even-numbered years. ARFCD is listed on your property tax bill to help fund levee maintenance and emergency preparedness.

In 2024, ARFCD moved from at-large elections to by-district voting so every neighborhood has a voice in protecting our levees.

Your Trustees

- **Rae Vander Werf, Division 5** (Term ends 2028)
- **Brian F. Holloway, At-Large** (Term ends 2026)
- **Steven Maviglio, At-Large** (Term ends 2026)
- **Tim Crush, At-Large** (Term ends 2026)
- **Steven T. Johns, Division 4** (Term ends 2028)

Contact your trustee at (916) 929-4006 or info@arfdc.org to ask questions about levee maintenance, flood protection projects in your neighborhood, or local emergency preparedness plans, and to share feedback about how the District can better serve your community. ⬅



LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code at right to see the electoral division in which you reside in and who is your trustee representative.





YOUR GUIDE TO A SAFER FLOOD SEASON

Taking a moment to educate yourself and plan ahead now can save you time, work, and money later. Learn where water from heavy rains or flooding flows through your community and make a household plan so everyone knows what to do in a flood emergency.

Check Your Flood Zone

- ARFCD Service Area Map – See exactly where your property falls and which levees and waterways protect your neighborhood:
- California DWR Flood Risk Awareness – Explore interactive tools and maps to understand your local flood risk and get safety tips.

Spot the Signs and Stay Safe

Learn the key signs of potential flooding near your home and how to take action to stay safe.



Rainfall erosion on levee.

Areas that collect water

Identify low spots near creeks, ditches, streets, or other areas where water pools after rain.

What to do: Avoid storing items there and plan safe routes if flooding occurs.

Changes to the levees

Watch for soft or wet spots, areas that are sinking or uneven, or water coming up through the levee.

What to do: Report issues immediately to ARFCD at (916) 929-4006. Never try to fix levees yourself.

Debris or overgrown vegetation

Check for branches, trash, or thick plants that could block water near levees or drains.

What to do: Keep your property clear and report larger blockages to ARFCD at (916) 929-4006. ⚡



ARFCD crews remove a fallen tree and debris after a big storm.



Rodent burrow damage on levee.

WE WORK FOR YOUR PROTECTION YEAR-ROUND

From inspections to repairs, our crews maintain levees and flood systems all year to keep Sacramento protected.

December through February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect levees and channels after storms Clear debris from levee slopes and roadways Coordinate on flood forecasts and emergency planning
March through May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair winter storm damage Trim vegetation along levees and channels Perform equipment inspection and fleet maintenance
June through August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform levee maintenance and soil work Remove weeds and overgrown vegetation Stockpile sandbags and flood fight materials
September through November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct final inspections before the rainy season Coordinate pre-storm planning with city & state agencies Participate in annual flood fight training



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH RIVER CITY WATERWAY ALLIANCE YIELDS RESULTS

Watching flotillas of mattresses, garbage bags, and other trash floating down the American River watershed from illegal encampments during flooding in early 2023, David Ingram and three friends decided they needed to do something to stop it.

Recruiting friends and neighbors passionate about protecting the area's streams and creeks to join them, they launched an all-volunteer group, the River City Waterway Alliance. During the next several weeks, often during heavy rainfall, the teams pulled out more than 40,000 pounds of debris left behind by the flooded encampments.

Two and a half years and 1,000 cleanups later, River City Waterway Alliance volunteers have removed an astonishing 3.4 million pounds of trash from local streams and rivers. Some

"The American River Flood Control District provides heavy equipment to help, hauling away the trash and repairing damage to the levees from encampments.

The result: improved flood protection – and a renewed wildlife habit. Volunteers report seeing fox, mink, deer, and egrets where encampments once were."

31,000 hours of time has been donated. The result: the removal of 1,620 shopping carts, more than 25,500 needles and over 6,800 pounds of batteries (as well as textiles, tires, carpeting and an occasional Barcalounger).



American River Flood Control District staff help RCWA volunteers clean up levee areas and repair damage.



American River Flood Control District crews at work in our community.

Volunteers literally do the dirty work. Provided with tools and a healthy dose of camaraderie, they remove trash that increases flood risks by impeding natural water flow, as well as damaging the ecosystem. The American River Flood Control District provides heavy equipment to help, hauling away the trash and repairing damage to the levees from encampments.

The result: improved flood protection – and a renewed wildlife habit. Volunteers report seeing fox, mink, deer, and egrets where encampments once were.

"River City Waterway Alliance is incredibly grateful to partner with American River Flood Control District," says co-founder Ingram. "Through the persistent efforts of our hard-working volunteers and amazing partners like ARFCD, we are reversing decades of misuse and neglect, protecting our drinking water, and improving the health of our critically important riparian ecosystems. The possibilities are endless when we all work together." <



LEARN MORE

For more information or to volunteer, contact the River City Waterway Alliance: <https://saccreeks.org/rcwa/> or facebook.com/rivercitywaterwayalliance.

FLOOD WISE

A publication of the American River Flood Control District.

OFFICE: (916) 929-4006

EMAIL: info@arfcd.org

WEBSITE: www.arfcd.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rae Vander Werf
Brian F. Holloway
Steven Maviglio
Tim Crush
Steven T. Johns

STAFF

General Manager
Timothy R. Kerr, P.E.
Superintendent
Brian Morris
Office Manager
Malane Chapman

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Open to the public
Second Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m.
185 Commerce Circle
Sacramento, CA 95815

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY:

During high water, ARFCD patrols levees 24/7. Please follow all City or County evacuation notices during a flood and keep clear of levee roads and equipment so crews can respond safely.

For flooded streets or storm drains, contact:

- City of Sacramento: 916-264-5371
- Sacramento County: 916-875-RAIN (7246)

Stay Informed, Stay Safe - Helpful Websites

- Sacramento Alert / Smart911 – Receive real-time flood and emergency alerts straight to your phone.
- California DWR Flood Risk Awareness – Explore maps to see how floods affect your area and learn how to prepare.
- FEMA Flood Map Service Center – Discover your home's flood zone and see how federal data guides insurance and safety planning. ⚡

LEARN MORE

Find emergency contacts and other resources related to flood protection by scanning the QR code below.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Superintendent Brian Morris



Superintendent Brian Morris

The ARFCD Board and staff are excited to introduce Brian Morris, who joined our team as superintendent in September 2024. With decades of hands-on experience, Brian brings a wealth of knowledge in managing people, equipment, and large-scale facilities.

Brian's career began in Napa, repairing mobile vineyard equipment, which eventually led him into winery operations. Over more than 20 years, he managed teams and maintained extensive grounds and infrastructure, gaining experience that now serves him well in flood control.

For Brian, the best part of the job is the people. "The team makes all the difference," he says. "My role is to keep everything running smoothly and support our crew as they do their work." In his first year, the district earned perfect scores on both of its annual levee inspections—a reflection of the team's work and dedication.

In his free time, Brian pursues his love of motorcycles, restoring vintage late-1970s Harleys and crafting custom choppers from the same era.

We're thrilled to have Brian on board, bringing practical expertise and leadership to help our team keep the levees strong and our community safe. ⚡